National Commission on inter-state river water disputes

617. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to constitute a National Commission on inter-State river water disputes to evolve a uniform procedure and mechanism to resolve them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decrease in the ground water level

618. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground water level throughout the country is going down for decades;

(b) if so, the state-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken/propose to take any action to arrest the further decrease in the water level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The long-term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the districts having pockets where fall in the ground water level for more than 4 metre (1981-2000) has been observed in different States is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under various schemes. Various measures as initiated by the Central Government to arrest decline in ground water and to harness it are indicated below: